

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# The Friday Newsletter



1630

No. 4

January 28, 1977

FY 1980 RPA--AN UPDATE: Work groups have been and are currently engaged in the development of the 1980 Resources Planning Act Assessment and Program. The Assessment Outline and Alternative Forest Service Program Directions and Goals will be available for In-Service and public review in late February or early March.

We are continuing to give priority to activities associated with the RPA Assessment and Program for 1980. Several areas on which we will concentrate include tying the Program development more closely to the Assessment; regionalizing the Assessment; relying more heavily on other agencies for data (such as BOR's Recreation Plan and the Water Resources Council Report); analyzing a broader spectrum of alternative directions as part of the Program building; regionalizing the Program by building from the field; improving the tie between land management planning, the Program, and the Assessment; and stating more clearly the roles of other agencies in resource management.

To date, we have developed a review draft of the Assessment Outline, including identification of "resource element" council members and contributors. Five Alternative Program Directions and Goals, spanning a broad range of possible program levels and mixes, including the 1975 RPA Recommended Program, have been selected for further development and analysis. Coordination with other agencies and organizations has been initiated, and guidelines for public involvement have been prepared and distributed. Action to establish national and regional advisory committees to review all Forest Service activities will serve as one means of obtaining public involvement in RPA.

Tasks, time frames, and responsibilities have been assigned and an RPA public participation plan designed to inform and involve the public and government officials, as well as support the field offices in carrying out their public participation plans, is now in effect.

These efforts will be augmented by an RPA explanatory brochure for Out-Service and In-Service distribution, and a complementary slide-talk.

IMPROVING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION: I'm pleased to report the adoption of the Program Accounting and Management Attainment Reporting System (PAMARS) Concept. This means that we have moved another step closer toward our goal of improved management information on accomplishments and associated costs.

I have assigned the development of the processes and information requirements to a Special Project Staff under Jack Deinema, Deputy Chief for Administration. Specific responsibility for the development of PAMARS is assigned to Bill Rice, Director of Fiscal and Accounting Management, with Clarence Tipton serving as project leader.

Through this system development we will be making basic changes in how we account for the funds we spend. Likewise, we will be expanding our accountability for what is accomplished as a result of our many varied activities. This will require more uniform use of our basic work-planning tools and definitions of our activities. As action is taken, updated reports will follow.

SPEECH BRIEF ON NEW LAWS: This week's issue includes the digest of a speech that focuses upon the relevance of three recent Acts: the BLM Organic Act, the Payment-in-lieu-of-Taxes Act, and the National Forest Management Act. The speech was presented by Associate Deputy Chief Einar Roget, for Associate Chief Resler, to the 1977 Western Region District Conference of the National Association of Counties in Reno, Nevada on January 27. Copies of the speech "Fitting the New Laws to the Land," are being distributed to RF&D's. They are also available upon request from the Friday Newsletter editor.

NEW NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALASKA: The Office of Information has just issued a new, updated edition of Current Information Report No. 12, "New National Forests in Alaska." Copies have been distributed to the field through the Alaska I&I Coordinators. This revision of CI No. 12, which includes a list of ANCA(d2) bills introduced in the 94th Congress, should now be used in place of the original 1974 edition for any information purposes.

PERSONNEL ACTION:

NA--John Chansler, Staff Director, promoted to Assistant Director for Resource Protection, NA.

WO--Robert Larson, Computer Systems Analyst, WO promoted to Computer Systems Analyst, WO. Ronald DeClark, Ag. Research Service, promoted to Computer Systems Analyst, WO. Ernest Tolin, Supervisory Computer Specialist, WO, reassigned to Supervisory Computer Specialist, WO. Douglas Shaw, Computer Specialist, WO, promoted to Supervisory Management Analyst, WO. Signey Haggard, Computer Operator, R-3, promoted to Supervisory Computer Specialist, WO. Calvin Smith, Computer Specialist, WO, promoted to Supervisory Computer Specialist, WO. Michael Matthews, Classification and Pay Specialist, WO, promoted to Leader Classification and Pay Group, WO.

Region 2--John Mumma, Forest Supervisor, Shoshone NF, promoted to Wildlife Management Staff Director, R-4.



Chief

## SPEECH BRIEF

SPEAKER: Associate Deputy Chief Einar L. Roget Date: January 27, 1977  
AUDIENCE: 1977 Western Region District Conference of the National Association of  
Counties, Reno, Nevada  
TITLE: Fitting the Laws to the Land

1976 saw some remarkable new laws enacted to govern the Federal lands. The BLM Organic Act was a major policy decision, declaring among other things that the public lands should generally be retained in Federal ownership. The payments-in-lieu-of-taxes legislation recognizes that the benefits which local governments receive from having Federal lands within their boundaries should be on a closer par to the financial benefits that are foregone. And, of course, the National Forest Management Act put a great deal of policy into the statutes for the Forest Service.

Multiple use is a theme that runs throughout the NFMA. This occurs by direct reference to the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and by new direction on resource coordination. For instance, one provision provides for "diversity of plant and animal communities to meet multiple use objectives." Another specifically allows timber harvesting when "protection is provided for streams, streambanks, shorelines, lakes, wetlands, and other bodies of water from detrimental changes in water temperatures, blockages of water courses, and deposits of sediment..." Land management planning for the National Forest System is the heart of the Act, and public involvement might be called the spirit of the law.

The Act provides that, in order to lessen the possibility of collusive bidding, the Forest Service should "require sealed bidding on all sales except where the Secretary determines otherwise by regulation." Obviously, Congress wanted a preponderance of sealed bidding. But, where should we draw the line? In the interim regulations, we assumed that while Congress did not anticipate exclusive use of sealed bidding, it did intend to have oral auctions only when there was very little danger of collusion.

The interim directions allow oral auctions in communities which are dependent on National Forest timber and which would be adversely affected by sealed bidding. But, this brings another subjective element into the picture. Some public officials have heartily disagreed on whether or not a particular community is economically dependent upon the National Forests, and whether or not sealed bidding would adversely affect that community. We have issued additional guidance to the field, which, in effect, should allow more communities to qualify for some oral auctions.

In another provision of the Act, States and counties will benefit directly in the level of payments they will receive. Provisions of the law add two new categories to the timber sales receipts on which the 25 percent fund is figured. The receipts will now include collections from timber purchasers under the Knutson-Vandenberg Act for reforestation and timber stand improvement, and credits to timber purchasers for permanent road construction.

I'm sure I don't need to remind you that the 25 percent fund payments are distributed before figuring additional payments under the Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes Act. These additional payments will be made by the Secretary of Interior to local governments having "entitlement lands," which include the National Forest System, within their boundaries. Unlike payments under the 25 percent fund, these monies can be used for any purpose. The formula for computing the additional payments is complicated, but in general, the combination of payments under other acts and Payments in Lieu Act should assure counties of receiving at least 75 cents per acre of entitlement land, with some upper limits according to population, and a maximum payment of \$1 million to any local government. Since responsibility for these payments is vested in the Secretary of the Interior, the major Forest Service responsibility will be simply to provide that department with information on payments under other acts, and acreages of lands in the National Forest System.



NFMA--BLM ORGANIC ACT  
IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

ACTION REPORTS:

A public information meeting of industry and other interested organizations is scheduled for January 31 in Washington. The threefold purpose is to: explain or interpret the National Forest Management Act; indicate the need to expedite timber sale regulations; and review the proposed regulations going into the Federal Register. The main objective of the meeting is to stimulate interest in the 60 groups to be represented and to receive responses within the stipulated 30 day "comment" period.

Significant progress has been achieved under Section 17 of the NFMA. The first package of purchase-exchange acquisition cases under \$25,000 was approved by Secretary Knebel on January 14.

Lands staff and OGC representatives met on January 17 with the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee staff, and on January 25 with the House Agriculture Committee staff to discuss procedures for providing information desired for the oversight responsibilities of the two Committees on land acquisitions.

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY  
RECEIVED

MAR 7 1977

PROCUREMENT SECTION  
Alphabetical Serial File